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Editorial

THE PROPOSED AMERICAN CLASSICAL LEAGUE

In connection with the proceedings of the Classical Conference of the National Education Association at Pittsburgh, July 3, plans were adopted for the formation of an American Classical League. The purpose of this league, as stated in the first of four resolutions adopted at that time, is "to supplement and reinforce existing classical agencies and for the extension and improvement of classical education." The "existing classical agencies" naturally refer to the four well-known classical associations whose scope now covers the entire territory of the United States.

The second resolution concerns itself with the provision for a nominating committee of two to act with Professor West in selecting a temporary executive committee of nine. The purpose of the league is reiterated in the third resolution, which empowers this temporary executive "to prepare the program for a classical conference to be held next year in connection with the National Education Association, and to do whatever else shall seem best to them for the promotion of the cause of classical education."

The activities of the proposed league thus resolve themselves roughly into three classes: (1) the supplementing and reinforcing of existing classical agencies; (2) the preparation of an annual classical program in connection with the National Education Association; (3) the doing of whatever else shall seem best to them for the promotion of the cause of classical education.

There can be no possible question as to the desirability of an American Classical League, with its executive committee providing for an annual program in connection with a great national and not distinctly classical association; and taking cognizance of whatever else will promote the cause of classical education. In these reconstruction days, when war programs are being given up, we can hardly expect to resume the pre-war activities unchanged in educational any more than in the commercial and industrial fields. We have, therefore, need to organize all the wisdom we possess in order both to clarify our own purposes and marshal our forces to bring these to pass; and in general to see well to it that in aims and methods classical education does not lag behind in the general advance movement.

The only questions that need give us pause are: Is the proposed league necessary, in view of the four great classical associations, three of which are already of long standing? Can it, and will it, as one organization, do what the present organizations have not done and cannot be expected to do? Is there any danger that the league will rival or in any way clash with the work of the associations?

It will be for the associations themselves to consider these questions at their coming annual meetings and to decide upon their several relations to the league. In the meantime the pages of the *Journal* are open to all who may wish to express an opinion on either side of the discussion. We all need information and education in order to pass intelligently upon these questions when later they come up to us both for our individual and collective decisions.